

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Miss. State BSU'ers active during '96 spring break

The Mississippi State University (MSU) Baptist Student Union (BSU) participated in three mission projects during their 1996 spring break.

Eight students participated in "BeachReach '96" in Panama City, Fla. Prior to the project, which was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and the Florida Baptist Convention in Jacksonville, the students were involved in several weeks of spiritual preparation and witness training.

Four hundred university students from 20 colleges (participating in BeachReach '96) were encouraged to share Christ with their peers through free pancake

breakfasts, free van rides, a non-alcoholic coffeehouse, witnessing surveys, and beach recreation.

"It really took me out of my comfort zone and put me in a unique place. God allowed me to lead a young man to Christ; God works in such mighty and marvelous ways," said Stacy Bishop, a junior from Waynesboro.

Bonnie Barker, a senior from Madison, shared, "I started talking to a Catholic guy from the University of Central Florida. He knew all the religious answers, but you could tell that a personal relationship with Jesus was missing. I was able to pray with him. Somehow Darrin was able to see that I loved him and the other

spring breakers because God loves me."

Twenty MSU BSU members were involved in two projects in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, sponsored by the Mississippi/Honduras Partnership Project of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Ten students led a junior high and senior high school weekend retreat and the Spiritual Emphasis Week at Los Pinares Academy. They led seminars, worship services, and chapels for kindergarten through senior high students.

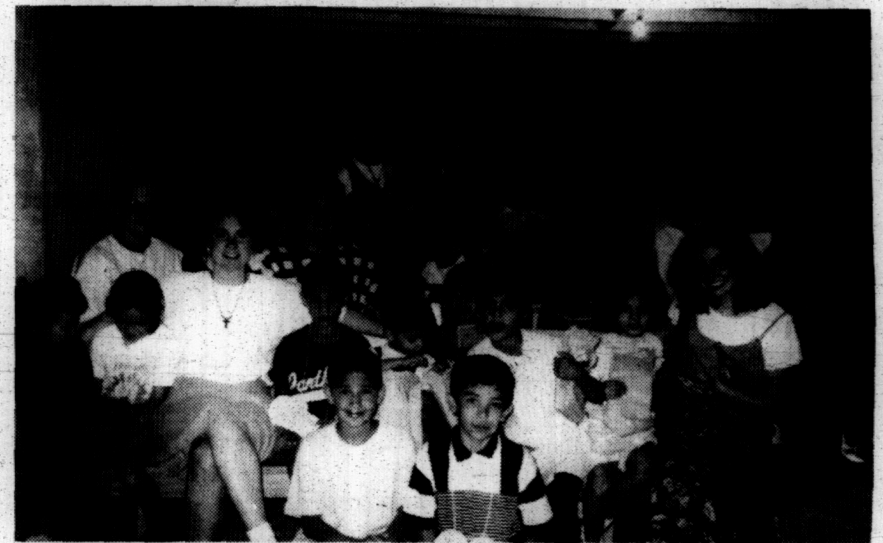
In addition, the group visited a boy's detention center and led recreational activities.

"I can't begin to express how wonderful it felt when a young seventh grade girl walked up to me with tears in her big, brown eyes and asked, 'How can I get saved?' I am just so thankful that God used me in planting seeds," said Chad Polk, a sophomore from Picayune.

Paige Cathey, a junior from Natchez, remarked, "Their willingness to listen and learn more about Jesus was unbelievable. God blessed me beyond what words can describe."

Another group of ten students ministered at La Joya Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa. They led chapel services in two neighborhood elementary schools; conducted door-to-door evangelism; and led children's activities for a nightly revival service.

This group distributed 500 Spanish-language New Testaments and was invited into an average of 30 homes each day. They shared testimonies, prayed



BSU'ers from Mississippi State University ministered in La Joya Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa and in a pair of neighborhood schools during their spring break mission trip to Honduras.

for specific family needs, and developed new friendships for the La Joya Church.

"It was a true blessing to be a vessel God could use to share with others his precious gift of Jesus. I'll never forget that lives were changed, especially mine," said Lori Clark, a graduate student from Holly Springs.

"It made me realize how we need to be witnessing, not just in Honduras but also here," said Brookhaven senior Joey Beeson.

Spring break missions were a marvelous, life-changing experience for students. They saw God at work, drawing people to himself in many different ways. (The) world needs to see Christ's love in action, and Christians need to be ready to take the opportunities God provides and share the amazing love of Jesus and the salvation (found) in him.



Baptist Student Union members from Mississippi State University who participated in SpringBreak '96 in Panama City, Fla., included (from left) front row, Bonnie Barker, Lee Mills; middle row, Stacy Bishop, Michelle Barlow, Ashley Wallace; back row, Jason Parkes, Michael Herring, and Robert Bedwell.



Mississippi State University BSU members with students at Los Pinares Academy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras include Ryan Richardson (back row, center), Paige Cathey (front row, third from left), and Chad Polk (second from right).

Reaching Jews

Sharing the gospel with Jewish friends shouldn't be an intimidating experience, said Gus Elowitz, leader of a Southern Baptist congregation for Jews in Houston, Texas. "It's as easy to witness to a Jew as it is to take Continuing Witness Training," he said. Citing the Jewish emphasis on the earliest books of the Bible, Elowitz explained, "We don't abandon the Old Testament. We show its fulfillment," in the prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah. The New Testament's book of Matthew, written to the Jews to show Jesus is the promised Messiah, is also an important witnessing component, he said. However, Jewish ethnicity — closely related in the Jewish mind to religion — can be a stumbling block to acceptance of Christ, according to Michael Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship. Jews who become Christians find they must constantly fight the accusation that they have stopped being Jewish, he said. "The apostle Paul makes it very clear (in Acts 21) that you're allowed to stay Jewish and the witness can be done in a very Jewish way," Smith pointed out.

A change of heart

Rickie Smith was once called the "most dangerous man in the Texas prison system." He was sentenced to three consecutive 99-year sentences for his uncontrollable habit of stabbing, slashing, and spearing inmates and guards alike. A special prison unit — designed several levels above maximum security — was built just to house him and other incorrigible gang members. Then Jesus came into his life. Today, he is a volunteer clerk in the prison chaplain's office and has spent the past six years asking forgiveness of his victims and leading other inmates to accept Christ. Smith's life story is one of several that will be featured in "The American Dream/Nightmare," a one-hour documentary produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) for the NBC television network. The program is hosted by John Schneider, former star of the popular "Dukes of Hazzard" television series. Schneider is president of FaithWorks Productions in San Antonio, Texas, which produces family values movies, television programs, and videos. Check local listings for the broadcast time in your area.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

First Church, Tupelo, demolishes a pair of venerable old education buildings that survived the disastrous 1936 Tupelo tornado. A new \$1.5 million education building and sanctuary expansion will soon occupy the property.

20 years ago

Gordon Shamburger, chaplain at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, is elected president of the national Association of Baptist Chaplains — Southern Baptist chaplains who serve in hospitals and other institutions around the country.

50 years ago

The Fidelis Sunday School Class of First Church, Meridian, purchases a concrete block machine for Baptist-affiliated Clarke College in Newton, where a post-war lumber shortage has halted construction of much-needed dormitory space.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Absolutely no intentions

It was noteworthy to see that our Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leaders described the newly organized Association of State Brotherhood Leadership as a "unilateral" action. There is little doubt of their ability to recognize a unilateral effort.

Under the Covenant for a New Century restructuring plan, the Brotherhood Commission (Baptist Men) is to close its office in Memphis and merge with the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. The various state Brotherhood leaders desire to keep the disaster-relief ministries under state leadership. Technically, the SBC has seldom had a disaster relief team. The disaster relief vans are owned by their respective state conventions.

There have been countless attempts to dialogue with SBC officials in the past. So often these attempts have resulted in a time of frustration and usually resulted in various new organizations which feel like they have been bypassed.

All of this represents an effort to say to the powerful SBC Exec-

utive Committee: "You need to listen, to negotiate, and desist from the tendency to dominate." The answer is usually more of the same.

An example is seen in the 1996 nomination of the next SBC president. Some 75 people met in a political-style caucus, closed to the press, and decided that Tom Eliff, Oklahoma pastor, would be the next SBC president.

There are people who would argue that 20,000 messengers will elect Eliff at the upcoming meeting of the SBC in New Orleans. Not so — the secretive order of cardinals elected him in Atlanta. They are dedicated to seeing that no untoward slip ups take place in June.

Robert Reccord, chairman of the Implementation Task Force (ITF) said, "It certainly would have been beneficial for all concerned had the state Brotherhood leadership communicated their concerns and intentions with the ITF."

Likewise, it would have been

beneficial if the original Restructuring Committee had communicated with various organizations. All the decisions have been made, and now "Let's talk."

Reccord made it plain: "The task force has absolutely no intentions of varying from the stated direction of the Covenant."

He is right. Apparently the SBC has little intention of changing its method in selecting committees, trustees, or in the election of an SBC president.

So let's talk, Mr. State Brotherhood leader. According to Nashville, you were wrong to organize. You need to fall in step as we have decreed.

Baptist laymen are not accustomed to thinking that communications is a one-way street.

The SBC probably needs restructuring, but it also needed a broader study than the seven men on the original restructuring committee were able to do. The disaster-relief ministry of the Brotherhood is time-tested and effective. It was not broke — why fix it?



THE FRAGMENTS

A nickel tablet

A "plain nickel tablet" was adequate stationery supplies, according to my mother. She wrote everybody and everything on one. She may be answering a letter which was received with lovely birds or flowers, but she answered in tabletic style.

While in the Navy I used fancy stuff with battleships, airplanes, or blue and gold USN engraved on it. The answer always came back on plain 2% rag-content tablet paper. She wrote at least once a week for 20 years when we served as missionaries overseas. No scripture verses nor fancy quotations; what Moses had used was good enough

for her.

Through the years the nickel tablet went the way of the penny Baby Ruth. Still, my mother would tell her supermarket-bound daughter to "bring me a nickel tablet," even though the price had by then risen to 89 cents. I had also by then made the discovery that it is not the stationery, but the message — not the rag-content, but the signature that matters.

I suspect if I received a letter from her today it would read, "We are all well, hope you are the same," and it would be written on a nickel tablet.

— GH

Guest Opinion...

Selection of SBC president is still important; not to be taken lightly

By Glenn Robins

In just a few short days, thousands of delegates will descend on New Orleans for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). These faithful sojourners will have the opportunity to hear good preaching and inspirational music, visit with old friends, and yes, embark on a little sightseeing in the Crescent City.

Among the more important responsibilities of the attendees is the task of selecting the SBC's next president. Indeed, Slayden A. Yarbrough, editor of *Baptist History & Heritage* (BH&H), has argued that since 1979 "the office of president has done more to influence Southern Baptist life than any other single position of denominational service."

Accordingly, the SBC Historical Commission has devoted the entire April issue of *BH&H* to the theme: "SBC Presidents: Credentials, authority, influence."

Carolyn DeArmond Blevins, associate professor of religion at Carson-Newman College, presented one of the more interesting interpretations of this theme. In her article, "SBC Presidential

Credentials: A 75-Year Profile," Blevins discussed the presidential election process, examined those conditions which have influenced SBC voters, and identified common characteristics of past presidents.

To begin, Blevins has expressed a moderate degree of skepticism regarding the manner in which Southern Baptists elect their presidents. In the past, SBC guidelines have required simply that presidential candidates be registered convention messengers of a "cooperating" church, and receive a majority of the votes.

Otherwise, "stated credentials" have not been a part of the SBC's Constitution and Bylaws. Moreover, delegates have defeated routinely constitutional amendments dictating presidential qualifications such as the 1984 motion "to tie the election of the president to his church's record of giving to the Cooperative Program."

Nevertheless, certain credentials have been implied. Obviously, name recognition has been crucial for no other reason than the enormity and brevity of the

annual convention meeting.

Also, Blevins has added that "one should not overlook the cleverness of the nominating speeches and the size of the candidate's church as a factor in successful elections."

This inexact pattern has produced an "intriguing variety" of leaders. To back this claim, Blevins provided a plethora of fascinating facts and figures regarding the educational, professional, and geographical backgrounds of past presidents. For example, "most SBC presidents since 1920 have graduated from Baptist colleges."

Gratifyingly, Mississippi Baptists have played a significant role in this area because Mississippi College has "educated" four former presidents, ranking second only to the five presidents educated at Baylor University. Also, one United States Congressman, Brooks Hays of Arkansas, led the SBC from 1957-59.

As for geographic representation, 11 states have supplied the 35 different presidents since 1920. Texas heads the list with 10, followed by Tennessee, with

six. All in all, diversity has been the hallmark of SBC presidential leadership.

Yet, Blevins has maintained that "the process of electing presidents in the SBC frustrates many people," and in recent years has too often turned into "a popularity contest." Most important, Blevins has predicted that without an appreciation for Southern Baptist traditions and ideals, presidential candidates run the risk of promoting a "generic non-denominational vision." Along this vein, Blevins has suggested that SBC messengers adopt a set of non-binding standards for choosing the next president.

Her recommendations include such considerations as "denominational activity, commitment to the convention, and knowledge

of Baptist heritage and principles." These prescriptions underscore the importance of continued presidential support for SBC programs and institutions.

Ultimately, Blevins hopes that well-informed voters will elect leaders devoted to preserving and perpetuating a Southern Baptist identity, a heritage authenticated by such presidential stalwarts as E.Y. Mullins, George Truett, R.G. Lee, and Herschel Hobbs.

As we head to New Orleans, we must realize our votes are important and heed this sage advice.

Robins lives in Hattiesburg, where he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in history with an emphasis in antebellum religion at the University of Southern Mississippi.

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California's former exec to lead search for NAMB head

NASHVILLE (BP) — The remaining seven members of a special 13-member group to search for a president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) have been nominated, according to Bob Reccord, chairman of the Implementation Task Force which is coordinating the denominational restructuring.

The 13-member incorporator group is one part of the articles of incorporation for the NAMB to be submitted to messengers at the June 11-13 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

C.B. Hogue, retired executive director of the California Convention, will chair the group called NAMB incorporators. Hogue was the messenger to the 1993 Southern

Baptist Convention in Houston who made the motion to study the denomination's structure, which led to a 1995 SBC vote approving the "Covenant for New Century." That restructuring, to be finalized if a revision to SBC Bylaw 15 is approved for a second time this year by messengers in New Orleans, will reduce the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12 and merge three agencies — Brotherhood, Radio and Television, and the Home Mission Board — into NAMB.

In addition to Hogue, nominees for incorporators are B. Carlisle Driggers, executive director of the South Carolina Convention; Fred Lowery, pastor of First Church, Bossier City, La.; Alice Sanders, a homemaker and member of First

Church, Wales, Fla.; John O. Yarbrough, pastor of First Church, Perry, Ga., and Georgia Convention president; Michael Hamlet, pastor of First Church, North Spartanburg, S.C., and former chairman of the RTVC; and Robert Sorrell, associate pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova (Memphis), Tenn.

Yarbrough and Sorrell are

members of the SBC Executive Committee which created the Implementation Task Force following the convention's approval of the restructuring plan.

According to Reccord, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., the primary task of the NAMB incorporators is the search for a president of the new agency. Their nominee must be presented to the

NAMB trustees for election.

According to the charter of NAMB, two trustees from each of three affected agencies complete the 13-member group. Those six, announced earlier, are C. Donley Brown, Keith D. Corrick, John P. Avant Jr., Charles G. Fuller, Omer Ray Finch Jr., and William G. Underwood.

(See related article on page 4)

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Mississippi church to host FMB appointment service

By William H. Perkins Jr.

First Church, Jackson, has been selected by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) to host the year's final missionary appointment service and trustee meeting on Dec. 8, according to a top official of the Protestant world's largest missionary-sending organization.

"This is the closing night of the Lottie Moon Week of Prayer. We anticipate this being a very exciting climax to this important week," said Robert E. Shoemake, executive assistant to FMB President Jerry Rankin.

Rankin is a Mississippi native and graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

Shoemake said FMB has responded for a number of years to invitations from state Baptist conventions to host missionary appointment services and trustee meetings away from the board's Richmond, Va., headquarters.

FMB records indicate the last missionary appointment service in Mississippi was held in April 1984 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Gulfport.

"The board took action in 1994 to respond also to invitations from large churches to host the Foreign Mission Board," Shoemake reported.

Jim Baker, administrative pastor for First Church, Jackson, said the congregation is looking forward to hosting FMB.

"We're excited that the members of First Church and Mississippi Baptists will have the opportunity to witness such a meaningful and inspirational service. It's gratifying to have the Foreign Mission Board recognize the strong support of our church and Mississippi Baptists for foreign missions — particularly the Lottie Moon Offering," Baker said.

Marjean Patterson, director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, believes the recognition is most appropriate in light

of the fact that First Church, Jackson, and several other Mississippi churches are consistent national leaders in gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

First Church, Brookhaven, for example, is annually one of the Southern Baptist Convention's highest-ranking churches in giving to the Lottie Moon Offering, she said.

"Mississippi Baptists annually rank high in per capita giving to the Lottie Moon Offering, and the offering total from churches around the state has increased every year in recent memory with one exception," said Patterson, whose department is responsible for promoting the Lottie Moon Offering in Mississippi.

When the state's 1995-96

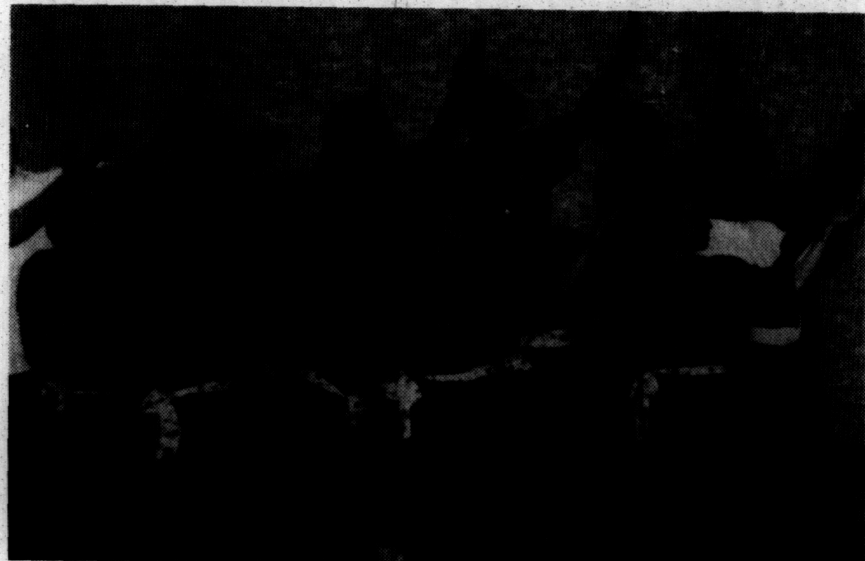
offering total is finalized on the last day of May, another record of nearly \$6.4 million in gifts from churches will be posted, she said.

Patterson is a strong supporter of missionary appointment services, which she considers one of the high points of Southern Baptist life.

"Every Mississippi Baptist should attend a missionary appointment service because of the two promises we have made to these young people — to pray for them and support them financially."

"Many missionaries have told me they could not make it without our prayers," she said.

The missionary appointment service will begin at 7 p.m. at the church's State Street facilities.



The Baptist Student Union at Hinds Community College started an on-campus ministry for deaf and hard of hearing students seven years ago. These are students who "mainstream" at Hinds through the Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. The ministry is led by Marlene Amick, a classroom interpreter for the deaf on the school's Raymond campus. There are 19 students enrolled in the ministry, which includes a weekly Bible study and a sign-language choir. The choir has been performing in several area churches, including Parkway and First in Clinton; and Broadmoor, Jackson. Nine deaf students have prayed to receive Christ this year. Two of those students were recently baptized at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.

Historical Commission OKs copyright transfer

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Historical Commission trustees voted during their annual meeting to transfer copyrights of the commission's publications and videos to the Southern Baptist Historical Society after consultation with the Baptist Sunday School Board. The trustee meeting was held April 22 in Nashville.

In February 1995, the Program and Structure Study Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee released its "Covenant for a New Century" proposed restructuring of the SBC, which was approved by the Executive Committee and, in June of last year, by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. According to the covenant, the Historical Commission is among several SBC agencies to be dissolved.

Historical Commission trustees voted to give employees who will not remain with the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives a severance package that could include assistance with

employment agency fees, an incentive benefit for those remaining with the commission through April 30, 1997, and medical insurance for early retirees.

Ronald Martin of California, commission chairman, noted the need to act with Christian concern for the commission's employees was a major factor in the trustees' deliberations. However, trustees also chose to treat the agency's financial resources "with conservative responsibility, remaining within the budgetary recommendations which the Executive Committee will be presenting to the convention in June."

Martin said he is "extremely pleased" with the announcement the Southern Baptist Historical Society would be moved to Oklahoma Baptist University. "By relocating its offices to Oklahoma, the society places itself in a site central to our nationwide Southern Baptist presence. Indeed as a Californian, I heartily, if a bit humorously, endorse this move to a somewhat less-eastern location."



Mississippi Eagles

A trio of Mississippi churches was recognized recently by the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville for major increases in Sunday School enrollment, prospects, teaching units, and attendance. Ken Marler (center) of BSSB was on hand at Trinity Church, Southaven, for presentation of the Eagle Awards to P.J. Scott (left), pastor of First Church, Olive Branch, and Gray Stafford (second from left), minister of education; and Jim Butler (right) pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven, and John Miller, minister of education, Westwood Church, Meridian, also received an Eagle Award. The latest Eagle Awards were the eighth for Trinity and the third for First Church. For more information on the Eagle Awards program, contact David Wills at the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. (Photo by David Wills)



HMB Officers

Mississippi pastor Greg Martin (back row, right) was elected chairman of the Home Mission Board of directors during the group's spring meeting on April 17. Martin is pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach. Other officers elected during the meeting were (back row, from left) Kenneth Cheek of Alabama, first vice chairman; (front row, from left) John Avant of Texas, second vice chairman; Marti Hefley of Missouri, assistant secretary; and Cloma Odom of Georgia, secretary. (HMB photo by Mark Sandlin)

Committee on CBF's future to report in June, council hears

ATLANTA (ABP) — A committee appointed last summer to study whether the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should form a national Baptist body outside the Southern Baptist Convention is completing its work and will report in June, a member of the committee said April 18.

Findings of the study committee will be available at the Fellowship's general assembly this June, said Eileen Campbell-Reed, a minister from Cartersville, Ga.

The full report "will probably be close to 200 pages of sum-

maries, reports, and papers," Campbell-Reed said in a report on the study committee's work during an April 18-20 meeting of the Fellowship's Coordinating Council.

Since forming in 1991, the Fellowship has promoted itself as a haven for moderate Southern Baptists who feel alienated in the conservative-dominated SBC, the nation's largest non-Catholic faith group.

The study committee was appointed by moderator Pat Anderson after a motion at last

summer's general assembly that the CBF start a new "denomination" was ruled out of order.

While some are calling for the Fellowship to form a new national Baptist body separate from the Southern Baptist Convention, the committee's task is not to recommend either for or against a formal schism, Campbell-Reed said.

The study committee's assignment is not "to bring a specific proposal," according to excerpts from the full report distributed to the Coordinating Council April 18.

Instead, the committee's purpose "is to raise our level of conversation and understanding about issues involved in CBF becoming or not becoming a separate convention," the report said.

Based on the report's excerpts, however, it would seem most Fellowship members do not believe the time is right for a new convention.

Couples discuss joint ministries at state's CBF spring assembly

Accountability in heeding God's call and faithfulness in following that call, regardless of factors such as age or sex, were thematic strains running through the worship sessions at the spring general assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Mississippi, held May 11 in Yazoo City.

Steve and Carla Street, co-pastors of Rivercrest Fellowship in Flowood, engaged participants as they discussed their journey into joint ministry, beginning with their individual commitments to respond to God's call into ministry and centering upon their efforts for the past two and one-half years at Rivercrest.

Rivercrest Fellowship offers to young adults an alternative worship style, including services at 6 p.m. on Sundays that vary widely in format. The Streets alternate delivering the messages, which, according to Carla, are "dialogical," with

church members wanting and expecting an opportunity to respond to the message.

Loretta Reynolds and Eddie Broadhead also spoke of their joint ministry, citing the differences they bring to ministry as being "exciting." Reynolds and Broadhead emphasized the advantages of having different views and voices as they co-minister. Reynolds said, "I hope we are able to leave a model for the future."

Bill Bruster, western coordinator for the CBF, based his keynote address on Exodus 16. Bruster, citing The Once and Future Church, postulated that we are now on the brink of the third great movement of the church. He also cited Alvin Toffler in saying that the information age will last no longer than 10 years. Bruster predicted that we are "on the doorstep of another era...we are on the verge of something new and wonderful."

Tulsa pastor: SBC's statement neglects role of God as Father

TULSA, Okla. (ABP) — Is someone in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) trying to change the traditional concept of the Trinity?

One Oklahoma pastor believes so, and he is trying to amend the SBC mission statement adopted in 1995. His attempts, however, have not been well received by Southern Baptist leaders.

Paul Brady, pastor of Ranch Acres Church in Tulsa, said he became concerned last year when he noticed the new SBC mission statement leaves out any reference to God the Father.

The statement reads: "The Southern Baptist Convention exists to facilitate, extend and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of Southern Baptist churches, under the lordship of Jesus Christ, upon the authority of Holy Scripture,

and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit."

Brady said the statement teaches bad theology. Trinitarian belief is in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, he said, not the Son, the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit as implied in the mission statement.

Brady introduced an amendment at the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention meeting, but it was referred to the SBC Executive Committee. The committee declined to act.

Morris Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee, said committee members felt "that to act 'under the Lordship of Jesus Christ,' who declared that he and the Father are one and to know him is to know the Father, adequately affirms God the Father."

Chapman assured Brady he has the right to bring his concerns to the messengers at the 1996 convention and ask that the amendment be voted on in one of the business sessions.

Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Shreveport, La., was chairman of the Program and Structure Study Committee that recommended the changes in the SBC documents. Brister said the report "contains no oversight."

Brister said belief in the Trinity

stems from belief "in the resurrection and the centrality of Jesus Christ in your life. That settles the issue."

Brady listed seven reasons why the mission statement should include God the Father:

— Without it, SBC theology would not reflect the Scriptures.

— The "Baptist Faith and Message," the SBC faith statement, declares the triune nature of God is expressed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

— Jesus commanded Christians to baptize "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

— Jesus taught Christians to pray, "Our Father, which art in heaven..."

— The SBC's mission statement should stand out from a culture that de-emphasizes fathers.

— Southern Baptists must emphasize they believe in God as Father, not as Father/Mother.

— The SBC's trinitarian belief is in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, not in the Son, the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit. "Currently we have two-thirds of the Trinity in our mission statement, but 66% is not good enough," Brady said. "Remember, this mission statement may be a reflection of our theology for the next 100 years."

SBC restructuring task force preparing SBC New Orleans report

NASHVILLE (BP) — The task force coordinating the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) met May 14-15 in Nashville, working on its report to the SBC in New Orleans in June, which will include a generalized cost analysis of the restructuring.

The 10-member Implementation Task Force (ITF), appointed by the SBC Executive Committee to coordinate the "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring approved by the SBC last year in Atlanta, said the report also will contain an "updated timeline" for the implementation. The Covenant reduces the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12. A second vote of a revision to SBC Bylaw 15, which lists the agencies by name, will be taken in New Orleans.

The Nashville meeting was the last scheduled full task force meeting before the SBC annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans, according to Robert Reccord, task force chairman and pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va.

Reccord said the task force report will be given to the Executive Committee at its pre-convention meeting June 8 in New Orleans. Copies of the report will be available for messengers June 9 in the SBC registration area of the Louisiana Superdome.

The report will be presented to the convention June 11 during the

Executive Committee report. Motions dealing with legal documents required to accomplish the dissolution and merger of affected SBC entities will follow.

Reccord also said the ITF discussed candidates to serve as "incorporators" for the North American Mission Board, a merger of the present Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission.

(See related article on page 3)

Calvary, Pricedale, marks 50th

Calvary Church, Pricedale (Pike Association) will celebrate its 50th anniversary on June 2, beginning with Sunday School at 10 a.m. The morning worship service will follow at 11 a.m.

Former pastor R.V. Greer, now of Rock Hill, S.C., will be the guest speaker.

A covered dish lunch will be served at noon in the fellowship hall. The church choir, under the direction of music minister Steve Lofton, will present an afternoon program.

Harold Gartman is pastor.

Southside, Lucedale, marks 25th

Southside Church, Lucedale, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on June 2.

Activities for the day will include: message by former pastor John Edwards and music by former music minister Rocky McGarity during the morning worship service, and dinner on the grounds.

Originally established as a mission of George Association, it was constituted in 1971. Harry Barnes was then pastor.

For more information, call the church at (601) 947-3136.

J. Keith Johnson is pastor.

CHURCH BUSINESS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS

CPA's checklist for churches: 25 key operational controls

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — In a day when lawyers think they can make some easy money by suing churches, church leaders must take the time to evaluate their areas of risk, said Rex Frieze, a CPA and church consultant based in Orlando, Fla.

"It used to be unheard of for a church to be sued," Frieze said. "Now lawyers see churches as easy targets with deep pockets."

A sadder situation, he said, is embezzlement of church funds is at an all-time high. "It is a fact that 15% of churches have been, are being, or will be victims of embezzlement," he said. That number in actuality is higher, he added, because church embezzlement is so easy to cover up with the sloppy way some churches keep their records.

Speaking during conferences at New Orleans Seminary the first week of April, Frieze gave a list of 25 key operational controls of a church, which also are the areas of highest degree of risk exposure, to be reviewed immediately:

1. "Are the articles of incorporation current as they relate to your state's nonprofit corporation laws, and are the bylaws adequately documented, up-to-date in content and being properly adhered to?"

2. "Does the governing board, as defined in the articles of incorporation and/or bylaws, consist of a majority of members who are not employees or staff and/or related by blood or marriage?"

3. "Has a conflict of interest policy been:
a. approved and appropriately documented?
b. distributed to all corporate/governing officers and directors?
c. re-evaluated at least annually?"

4. "Is your church operating under a policies and procedures manual which addresses such areas as ministry matters, finances, personnel, facilities, and general administration? Is this manual adequately documented, current in content, and appropriately distributed to the church's governing officers/directors, staff and key lay ministry leaders?"

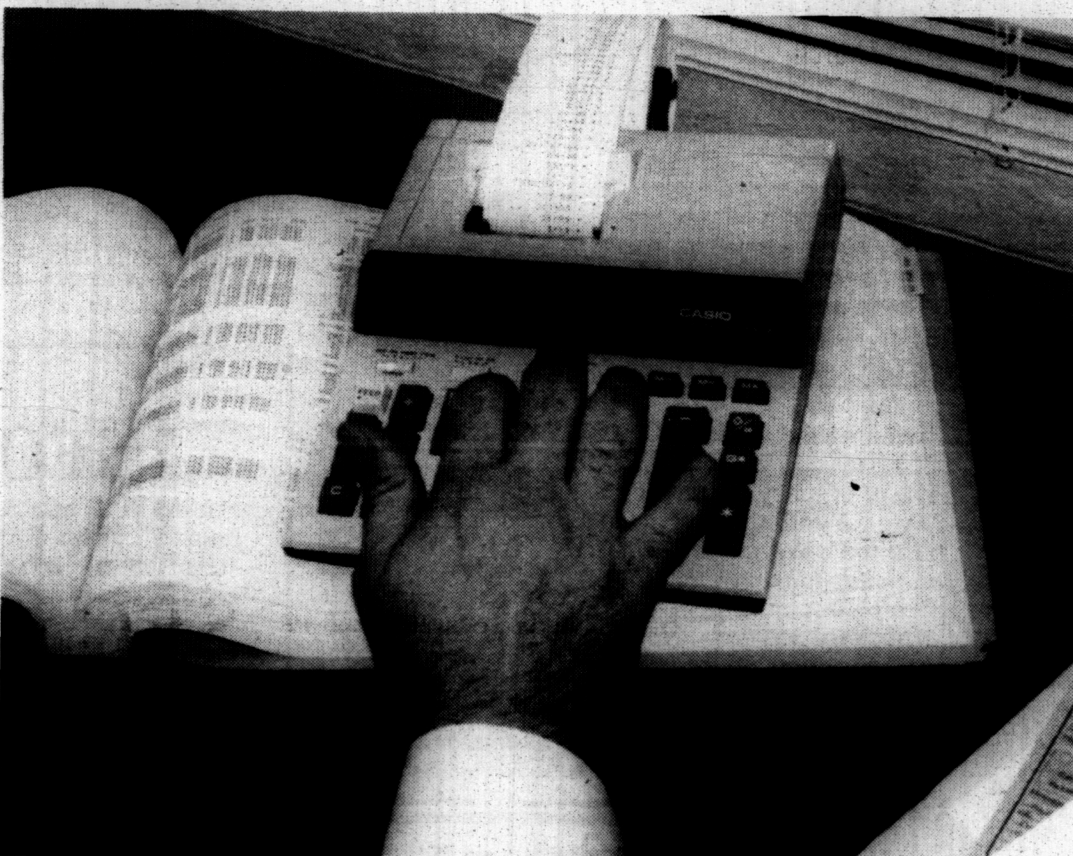
5. "Have policies and procedures been established which address possible sexual molestation of children and other minors by staff and/or volunteers during ministry-related activities?"

6. "Are all fund-raising appeals:
a. clearly identified as to the purpose and program to which donations will be applied?
b. presented in such a manner that they do not create an unrealistic donor expectation?
c. presented in such a manner that they do not compel the donor to make a

gift under pressure?"

d. avoided when they do not directly relate to the purpose/mission statement of the church?"

7. "Has management created a workable organizational chart showing lines of responsibility and authority, and does this structure facilitate effective communication upstream, downstream, and across functional lines?"



8. "Are all actions of church business meetings, governing board meetings, executive staff meetings, committee meetings, etc. properly and adequately documented in minutes and permanently filed in a secured filing system on the church premises?"

9. "Is the church operating under an approved annual general operating budget?"

10. "Are at least two unrelated, trustworthy individuals always in custody of offerings until they have been safely deposited in a bank or places in a secure night depository?"

11. "Are separate individuals assigned the responsibilities for each of the following tasks:
a. counting and depositing the offerings?
b. recording donor contributions?
c. preparing disbursement checks?
d. signing checks?

e. reconciling bank statements?"

12. "Has a policy been established which outlines guidelines for restricted/designated giving, and has this policy been adequately communicated to church members and donors?"

13. "Are all financial transactions being accounted for in a general ledger which is organized under a ministry-directed chart of accounts, and is this ledger being balanced

18. "Are all perspective employees (full-time and part-time) required to complete an application for employment, and are they properly screened through:
a. reviewing the application?
b. contacting personal and professional references?
c. performing a personal interview?
d. verifying educational training and professional credentials?"

e. performing appropriate background checks (i.e., former employers; criminal, drivers, and credit records; sexual molestation)?"

19. "Are all employees (full-time and part-time) and functioning committees working under a current ministry position description, and are they properly understood and followed?"

20. "Has the following documentation been thoroughly prepared, updated and maintained relating to personnel matters of the church:
a. application for employment?
b. personnel files?
c. performance appraisal and/or evaluation forms?
d. employee handbook?
e. progressive discipline reports?
f. immigration I-9 forms with back-up support?
g. time cards for non-exempt employees?
h. separation notices on dismissed employees?"

21. "Are all employees functioning under a properly structured compensation program which addresses pay rates/salary, minister's housing allowances, employee fringe benefits, and employee expense reimbursements?"

22. "Has the church established an 'accountable' expense reimbursement arrangement for all of its ministers and other employees for the purpose of maximizing their personal tax savings with no additional costs to the church?"

23. "Are insurance coverages evaluated and reviewed with a competent insurance professional on at least an annual basis for the purpose of determining appropriateness and adequacy of coverages?"

24. "Are proper daily and weekly computer file backup and retention procedures in place, and are they being properly adhered to by all those using church computers?"

25. "Has an internal audit committee been established to assist the governing board and executive staff in reviewing the church's operating systems for effectiveness, efficiency, compliance with applicable governmental laws and regulations, and assessment of possible risks and exposures to the ministry?"

and reconciled to other supporting records on a monthly basis?"

14. "Are purchase orders and fund requests being used to control church purchases and advanced payments?"

15. "Are monthly financial reports with budget comparisons and explanations of significant variances being prepared, and are they being reviewed on a timely basis by the governing board, executive staff, and appropriate lay leaders and committees?"

16. "Does the church evaluate the status of each service provider of the church to determine if they are either an employee or self-employed for federal income tax purposes, before payment for services rendered is made (this would include ministers)?"

17. "Are procedures in place which allow for the accurate and timely completion of the following federal reporting obligations:
a. federal payroll taxes (i.e., form 941, forms W-2 and W-3, forms 1099-MISC/1096, etc.)?
b. charitable contributions receipting?
c. donee information returns (form 8282)?
d. annual certification of racial nondiscrimination (form 5578) relating to Christian schools?
e. unrelated business income (form 990-T)?
f. federal wage and hour standards?
g. federal bus regulations relating to church-owned vans/buses?
h. copyright of materials (literature, music, software, etc.)?"

Prevention guards church integrity

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — People should be looking at churches and saying, "I want to run my household and my business like that church," a CPA told students at New Orleans Seminary.

Instead, the IRS and lawyers are looking at churches and seeing a gold mine because of their careless lack of compliance to rules and regulations, said Rex Frieze, former chief business and financial officer for First Church, Orlando, Fla., and now a tax law specialist and church business consultant based in Orlando.

Frieze listed eight tools churches should use for preventive management to fend off frivolous lawsuits and negative IRS audits: organizational structure, personnel, policies, procedures, budgeting, accounting, reporting, and internal reviews/audits.

"The church must be the pacesetter in demonstrating to its members and to a lost world the highest levels of integrity in organizing and operating its ministry affairs," Frieze said.

"As the Lord's people in the Lord's house, we should not be saying, 'All these rules are such a pain,'" he said.

Call us

Any member of a cooperating Mississippi Southern Baptist church wanting to know their church's giving history should call the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 968-3800; or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.

Venezuela trip stresses need for health care missions

By Frank O. Page

It is too easy for our world to become inward, and our view of missions to become nearsighted and not global.

Missions have always been important to me. Last fall, our pastor sent a letter to medical personnel in our church inquiring about their desire to be involved in medical missions. This led to our involvement with 48 volunteers (from around the country) who ministered to the physical and spiritual needs of the Venezuelan people.

I found Maracaibo in Venezuela to be a country of contrasts, where medical needs were greater than ever.

There was an economic crisis before we arrived, and the Bolivar (Venezuelan currency) was up to 400 per dollar (exchange rate).

I served in two clinics and as part of the academic team to lecture and talk with local physicians. We asked that God use our medicine as a means to discuss the "Great Physician" and to talk about patients' physical and spiritual health.

Strategically, I realized for the first time how important it is for Baptists in reaching the world to use health care missions to proclaim the gospel of Christ.

We ministered in the state prison of Venezuela. We saw all types of unusual diseases and carried medicine to the prison, since no medicines are supplied by the government.

We realized that God also died for these people, and that he loved them and they were created as the pinnacle of his creation to have communion with him.

I concluded the prison ministry by speaking to the prison population on health issues — again speaking about physical issues to discuss spiritual health.

By the end of the day, the prison warden wel-

comed us back at any time to minister to their prisoners.

Working in the clinic at Cabamis also was a special experience. We saw how this small mission, even out of its poverty, had started another mission in an area representing the poorest of the poor.

We saw the extraordinary generosity of the local church and their people who, as poor communities, begged to share in the privilege of helping others as the poor Macedonian churches helped those at Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8).

During this trip we learned to practice the presence of God at all times. We also learned the enormity of God's work, which we did not fully comprehend.

We also wondered why God placed us here in Birmingham, and not on the desert of unreached people living in huts and going to work on donkeys.

The unfinished task of winning the world to Christ is enormous. Are we willing to gain a compassion for the unsaved and a sense of urgency in reaching them for Christ?

Are we willing to serve God with boldness?

Editor's Note: This medical mission trip was coordinated through the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership Project. For more information, contact the Partnership Missions Office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Correction

Page, an Amory native, is a physician and member of Brookwood Church, Birmingham, Ala.

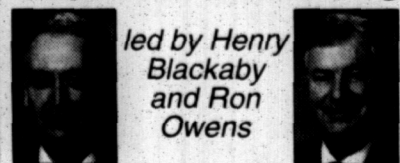
In its May 23 issue, *The Baptist Record* incorrectly identified Larry McDonald (author of "Portrait of a good minister..." on page 2) as pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon. McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Also incorrectly identified was James R. Walker (author of "Unique missionary parents' group..." on page 5) as pastor of Calvary Church, Braxton. Walker is pastor of Tiplersville Church, Tiplersville. His daughter Beth Bailey serves in Guatemala alongside her husband Al. They are currently on furlough in Atlanta.

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July 12-22, 1996

Barquisimeto, Venezuela

4 teams

Aug. 30-Sept. 9, 1996

Valencia, Venezuela and surrounding area

13 teams



The skyline of Maracaibo, Venezuela — one of the South American nation's most populous cities — beckons Mississippi Baptists to Christian mission service during the three-year Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership Project, sponsored by the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. A large number of Mississippi Baptists, including a contingent of association directors of missions and several medical/dental teams, has already made mission trips to Venezuela in the first year of the partnership. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

INFORMING. ENTERTAINING. INSPIRING. CHALLENGING.

1996 WMU Annual Meeting

Join notable author, teacher, and speaker Dr. Diana Garland during the 2:00 p.m. Monday general session of 1996 WMU Annual Meeting. Garland, a professional in the development of family ministries, will help launch WMU's national ministry project for 1996-97, which will focus on child advocacy.

This two-day WMU extravaganza promises to inform you, entertain you, inspire you, and most of all, challenge you to support missions like never before.



Dr. Diana Garland

HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE:

- OTHER FEATURED SPEAKERS:
Leonard Sweet, Dean of Theology, Drew University, Madison, N.J.
Lyle Schaller, Research Associate, National Evangelistic Association, Naperville, Ill.
- Testimonies by home and foreign missionaries
- Messages from Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis and Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin
- Election of new WMU president

General Sessions* will be held at the New Orleans Marriott (555 Canal Street) on Sunday, June 9, at 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; and Monday, June 10, at 9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.



Woman's Missionary Union

* No registration or cost required to attend the general sessions.



A world view

Sam Pittman (left) receives a glass paperweight globe from Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). The paperweight commemorates his 46 years of ministry, including 23 at the Foreign Mission Board. Pittman, 67, retires as the board's executive director of public affairs on June 30. O'Brien commended Pittman for his role in establishing creative liaison with WMU and other Southern Baptist entities. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Baptist state paper association's 100 years chronicled, published

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP) — The tumultuous history of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has been written and rewritten many times by many authors.

The Convention, founded in 1845, has survived national and world wars, economic depressions, internal bickering and contention, controversy, and natural disasters. Though history has been recorded, who were the observers who recorded week by week, year by year, the events that shaped the SBC?

Four years ago the Southern Baptist Press Association (SBPA — now called Association of State Baptist Papers) decided to tell the story of those people and that organization.

The SBPA approved a plan to commission the writing of its history, "warts and all," to bring its constitution into the modern era, and to employ a part-time executive director. The writing of the history took much longer than the other two objectives.

Now, the history will roll off the press June 5. Written by Bill Junker from Brentwood, Tenn., retired from the Home Mission Board where he served as director of editorial services, **Contending for the Right to Know**

is a hard-back book containing 288 pages of adventure and courageous editors.

Who are the heroes of this story of journalists and pastors, innovators, and gadflies?

You can read about them in the official history of the SBPA.

When the SBC last year celebrated its 150th anniversary, the SBPA was taking note of its 100th birthday. It was begun in 1895, with E.E. Folk, editor of the Tennessee **Baptist and Reflector**, as its founder.

It is not strange that birthing an association of state Baptist papers was difficult. There was controversy about it before it began, and controversy about membership eligibility and the name.

Twelve current state Baptist papers trace their origins to the years prior to 1895. J.B. Cranfill of Texas rightly claims some of the credit for founding the SBPA. He shared the same ideas as Folk, but evidently the Tennessee editor issued the call.

Folk stated a major reason for the association when he called for the first meeting:

"We may simply say it will, we believe, tend to promote a greater spirit of fraternity among the editors and other representatives of our Southern Baptist

papers, and so will be in the direction of building up our common Zion. We may also, we think, be of much benefit to one another along business lines in giving one another suggestions and information as to advertisements and other matters of a practical character."

There were others reasons, of course. They are evident in the records, along with names such as Z.T. Cody; T.T. Eaton; J.B. Gambrell, who was the first publisher and editor of Mississippi's **Baptist Record**; Josiah W. Bailey; T.P. Bell; their peers, and those of later generations who dealt with different issues but similar problems.

One editor served as a scout with Gen. Robert E. Lee during the Civil War. Another carried a pistol at all times. Editors often used the editorial page to chastise other denominations, often calling the leaders by name.

Contending for the Right to Know is published by Providence Publishing House of Franklin, Tenn. Cost per book is \$15.95 plus \$3 shipping. Copies will be available in the news room at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans in June.

Allen is the editor of Tennessee's **Baptist and Reflector**.

Thursday, May 30, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My 18-year-old son is intimately involved with a divorced woman nearly three times his age. They're talking marriage, so how do I tell him I don't think that's a good idea?

He must know how you feel, since society looks questionably upon such unions. Talk with him about how they met, her strengths and weaknesses, and what he loves about her. Hearing all of that may hurt or even sicken you, but allowing this communication with your son may open his eyes to what he is doing. You can talk with him about your relationship with his father, about love, and about marriage. Don't preach to him! Listen and share yourself and your views with him. In the long run, this will go much farther than rejecting him. He may come to his senses sooner, but if it is later, he will at least know that you are there for him. That is an important point.

How can I help others avoid

the emptiness and worthlessness I felt after I had an abortion as a teenager?

Write down your story, fine-tuning it until it contains exactly what you want to say. This is your story, so make it "you" and not what you think people want to hear. Share your story with your family and get their input — you don't want them to be caught off-guard when you begin telling your story to others. Talk with women in your Sunday School class and ask for their prayers. The delicacy of the matter is protected when you solicit the opinions of others, and this will also help protect you from getting "out on a limb" all by yourself. Pray for opportunities to share your testimony. Keep in mind that people today — especially young people — need to hear the reality of your tragedy, and not some sugar-coated version. God bless you. Your hurt may turn into the salvation of many other people.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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Fern Harrington Miles

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Author, *Captive Community*
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1-800-419-0561

Registration Deadline: **June 25, 1996**

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Just for the Record



The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) held state auditions on March 28-29 at Millsaps College, Jackson. After three rounds of auditioning, the following Mississippi College singers were chosen as finalists (from left): seated, Lori Schuler, Pearl; Annadaire Ingram, Jackson; Alison Chapman, Clewston, Fla.; Beth Jones, Jackson; and Carla Parker, Brandon; standing, Sam Bass, Jackson; Joey Wolfe, Vicksburg; Chris Cook, Amory; Phillip Hill, Jackson; Farrar Strum, Clinton; and Robert Mayfield, Natchez.

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, will broadcast its 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday worship services on WYJS (105.9 FM) beginning June 2. David Sills is pastor.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will host a 1996 ACP Software Training session on June 19 at the Baptist Building in Jackson for associational clerks and secretaries. Coffee will be

Revival Dates

Second, Kosciusko: June 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Glen Savell, evangelist; Reggie and Debbie Daugherty, music.

County Line, Union: June 9-14; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Malcolm Lewis, Meridian, evangelist.

Vacation Bible Schools

Terry Road, Jackson: June 3-7; 8:30-11 a.m.; ages 3-17; "Family Night," Sunday, June 9, 7 p.m.

First Church, Runnelstown, Petal: June 10-14; 8-11 a.m.; nursery through 6th grade.

Longview, Starkville: June 3-7; 6-8 p.m.; ages 5-17; Olympic Day, June 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for ages 5-17.

Tuckers Crossing, Laurel: June 3-7; 6-8:30 p.m.; pre-registration, June 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Union, Sardis: June 3-7; 9-11:30 a.m.; nursery through older children; commencement, Sunday, June 9, 6 p.m.

be one of the speakers. For more details, contact Joanne Sloan, SCWC coordinator, P.O. Box 1106, Northport, AL 35476; telephone (205) 333-8603.

County Line Church, Union, will hold dedication services on June 2, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., for its new building, sanctuary, nursery, and educational space. Barron Pilgrim is pastor.

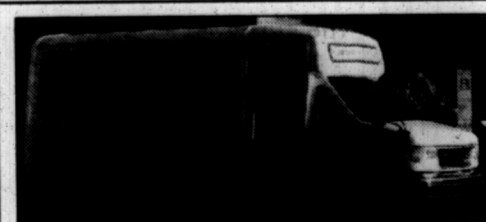
The Sunday Care Program, under the direction of Carlie Hill, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is beginning to pay rich dividends in reaching people. Burch Hill Mission Church, Clinton, was approved as a mission of Metro Association just over a year ago. The Kid's Club, for ages 5-15, meets on Sundays, 3-5 p.m., and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. The club attendance averages 60 on Sundays and 25 on Wednesday nights. On Palm Sunday, 92 people attended services at Burch Hill. A program was presented by 11th grade students from First Church, Clinton. The mission church conducted a revival May 22-25. Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, coordinated the event with the assistance of visiting ministers and missionaries from England. For more information on this mission, contact Metro Association or Andy White at (601) 924-6606.

First Church, Pontotoc, will continue its sesquicentennial celebration through June. On June 2, Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, will be the guest speaker in the 10:40 a.m. service. Luke Garrett, recording artist, will sing in the morning and evening worship services. On June 16, Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, will speak in the 10:40 a.m. service. W.H. Sims III is pastor.

The 1996 Southern Christian Writers Conference workshop will be held June 7-8 at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Designed for beginning and experienced writers, it will include sessions on writing and publishing novels, non-fiction books, and magazine articles. The sessions are geared to writers interested in Christian and secular publishing. Terri Blackstock of Clinton will



First Church, Madison, held a Building to Serve rally March 24 at the Trade Mart in Jackson to kick off the church's campaign to add educational space and remodel its day care and preschool areas. The church's adult choir and orchestra performed at the rally, which was capped by the announcement that \$1.9 million has been pledged toward the education building project.



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Mount Vernon Church, Webster Association, honored six couples on April 14 who have been married at least 40 years. Tony Faulk, pastor, presented them with certificates in recognition of their commitment to marriage. Those honored and their marriage dates are (from left): seated, Lagrone and Elsie Cooper, Jan. 2, 1936; Jerry and Vera Woods, Nov. 16, 1940; Fay and Howard Thompson, June 23, 1946; standing, Oscar and Celia Hood, April 16, 1955; Sarah and Harold Oswalt, April 21, 1949; and Katherine and Glynwood Salley, Nov. 24, 1948. The church also presented Cooper a plaque recognizing him for his years of service. He was ordained as a deacon in 1952, and served about 45 years as treasurer and Sunday School teacher.

Homecomings

Galilee, Hazlehurst: June 2; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; Mike Grenn, former pastor, guest speaker; Joe Ann Ashley and Wayne McGee, music.

New Hope (Lafayette): June 2; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; singing in afternoon by Ricky and Cheryle Martin; Troy Defer, pastor.

Calvary, New Augusta: June 2; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Jack Stanley, Wilmer, Ala., guest speaker; The Stanley Family, music; covered

dish lunch, 12 p.m.; afternoon service and singing; no night service; June 3-7, revival; 7 nightly; Jack Stanley, evangelist; Ron Spencer, music; Clay Ingram, pastor.

Doty Chapel, Shannon: June 9; 11 a.m., Bill Mason, former pastor, preaching; Southern Gospel group and Southern Tradition, music; Shawn Kinsey, pastor.

Mt. Zion, Brookhaven: June 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon business meeting and memorial service; David Carlton, pastor.

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Bradley and Lenora Beaman, missionaries to India, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: 41/1 Benson Cross Rd., Bangalore 560.046, India). A native of Indiana, he was born in Indianapolis and considers Fishers his hometown. She is the former Lenora Salley of Meridian.

Uless and Mary Lee Bergerson, missionary associates to Peru, are on the field (address: Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru). He is a native of Pass Christian. The former Mary Lee Garcia, she was born in New Orleans and considers Bay St. Louis her hometown.

Frank and Dede Trotter, missionaries to Southern Africa, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 5113, Stanger 4450, Republic of South Africa).

He was born in Sunflower County and considers Pensacola, Fla., his hometown. The former Dede Sturdivant, she was born in Memphis and considers Oxford her hometown.

Mary Alice Ditsworth, missionary to Indonesia, is in the States (address: 3875 NE 27th Ct., Ocala, FL 34479). She was born in Lucedale and grew up in Pascagoula.

Timothy and Rebecca Lightsey, missionary associates to El Salvador, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (address: Instituto de Lengua Espano, Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica). He was born in Laurel and considers Sandersville his hometown. The former Rebecca Watts, she was born in Columbia and considers Laurel her hometown.

Staff Changes

James R. Walker has resigned as pastor of Pheba Church in Clay Association, to become the pastor of Tiplersville Church, Benton-Tippah Association.

Prentiss Church, Prentiss, has called **Johnny Brothers** as minister of youth. A native of West Monroe, La., he is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University and is now attending New Orleans Seminary. Randall Rich is pastor.

Brothers

Liberty Hill Church, Pope,

has again called **James Lee Bailey** as pastor. He previously served the church from 1976 through 1981. Bailey goes from McCool Church, where he served for eight and a half years. He is a graduate of William Carey College, New Orleans Seminary, and Covington Seminary.

Stan Fornea has announced his resignation as pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. He will enter the Navy chaplaincy and will be stationed in London.



Bailey

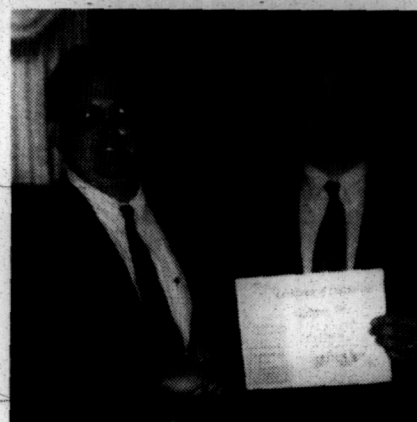
Hilda Ingels Herring of Jackson, 87, died May 10 of heart failure at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. A native of New Orleans, she was the widow of Edwin L. Herring, who had been business manager of First Church, Jackson. Survivors include: son James Edwin of Jackson; and brother Edgar D. Ingels of Jackson.

CULPEPPER, Va. (BP) — **Elizabeth N. Hale**, Foreign Mission Board emeritus missionary to the Orient, died May 8. She was 90. Hale set sail for China in 1934 and worked there through World War II. She worked in Malaysia from 1952 until she retired in 1971. Through self-support, she built and managed the Bethel Hill Home for elderly Chinese women in Malaysia until 1983. The home is still open.

Sean Keith, youth consultant for the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will join the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville as a consultant in the Bible Teaching-Reaching Division, effective July 1.

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — **Allan Moseley**, pastor of First Church, Durham, N.C., and adjunct professor of Old Testament at Southeastern Seminary, has been named vice president for student services, dean of students, and professor of pastoral leadership and church ministries at the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary.

ATLANTA (BP) — **Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Brett Butler** has been diagnosed with throat cancer, after being placed on the disabled list May 2 for a tonsillectomy. Butler, 38, is a member of



Chris Dufrene (right) was recently ordained to the gospel ministry at Crooked Creek Church, Lawrence Association. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Dufrene of New Hebron, he is married to Joy Vaughn Dufrene. Mike Grenn (left) is pastor.

Hebron Church, Dacula, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta. Larry Wynn, the church's pastor, is first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Butler and his wife Eveline have hosted a Bible study for ballplayers led by Atlanta-based Tim Cash who leads evangelistic baseball clinics throughout the United States and overseas.

Bob White, 49, died of cancer May 22 at his home in Russellville, Ky. He was a native of Hazlehurst, and a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Before moving to Kentucky, White served as minister of music at Paul Truitt Memorial Church in Pearl; First Church, Lexington; and First Church, Holly Springs. At the time of his death, he was minister of music at Southern Heights Church in Russellville. He is survived by his wife Becky, son Clay of Flowood, a brother, and four sisters.



T. Jack Colvin (left), Jackson insurance executive and Mississippi coordinator of the Retired Ministers' Support Corps of the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board, was honored recently in Dallas. Board President Paul W. Powell presented a plaque recognizing Colvin for leading the Mississippi Corps in efforts to raise awareness of the Adopt An Annuity Program which provides an extra \$50 each month to retired ministers or their widows who have inadequate retirement incomes.



JoLynn Creel and Melodi Griffith, alumnae of William Carey College (WCC), recently presented a lecture on music therapy at the 12th annual Conference on the Elderly Mentally Handicapped Mississippian held at WCC. Creel, a registered music therapist, works at Green Briar Hospital, Meridian. Griffith, a registered music therapist, works at Pine Grove Recovery Center, Hattiesburg. Pam Baker, president-elect of the American Association on Mental Retardation, was the speaker. The conference was sponsored by WCC, Boswell Regional Center, Mississippi Gerontology Center, and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

Henry appoints 12 to SBC Resolutions Committee — bylaws call for 10 members

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Jim Henry announced May 23 he has asked one member of the SBC Resolutions Committee to withdraw and another has resigned.

Henry, in a statement to Baptist Press, said he received word from Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, that the SBC bylaws allow for 10 members for the Resolutions Committee, while Henry has appointed 12.

"In my desire to widen participation in our SBC life, I had enlisted more than the 10 members," Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., said.

"Therefore I have asked Dr. Ferris Jordan of Louisiana to withdraw, which he has consented to do. Buddy Sutton of Arkansas has resigned from the committee. We appreciate their willingness to serve...."

The committee is one of several the SBC constitution and bylaws

allow the elected president to appoint. The committee prepares resolutions for the messengers at the annual meetings to consider. The Resolutions Committee is the subject of Bylaw 22 which states, in part, "the president... shall appoint a Committee on Resolutions to consist of 10 members...."

Chapman told Baptist Press, "When I became aware 12 members had been appointed to the committee though SBC bylaws call for 10, and this opened the possibility of a challenge to the president's appointments during the convention, I called the matter to the president's attention."

The remaining 10 members of the committee are: chairman, Nancy Victory, Louisiana; Jay Wolf, Alabama; Jack Kwok, Arkansas; Faith Kim, California; Harry Lewis, California; Joe Coats, Florida; John Click, Kansas-Nebraska; **Linda Donnell, Mississippi**; Mark Acuff, New England; and Karen Bullock, Texas.

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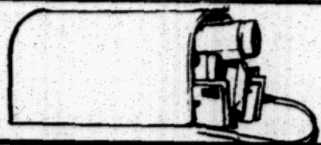
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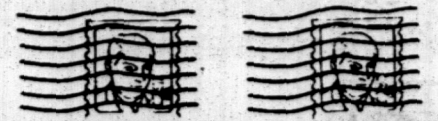
Deadline for DOM search extended

The Mississippi Association is accepting resumes for the position of director of missions through June 15. That deadline is extended from the previous June 1 deadline.

Send resumes to:
Sammy Smith, chairman
Director of Missions Search Committee
Mississippi Baptist Association
P.O. Box 321
Liberty, MS 39645



Letters to the editor



Revival in Amory

Editor:

With overwhelming joy and thanksgiving, I want to share with you my gratitude to God for the revival he sent to First Church of Amory. As we began preparations for the revival, the church began to sense an awareness that revival was a common desire of our hearts and that revival must come or else we would perish.

Gary Bowlin, vocational evangelist from Brandon, preached powerful and timely messages, and Allen Harris, minister of music at North Oxford Church sang and led in beautiful music. I commend them and recommend them to you, but we are all aware that God brought the revival to us. Decisions were significant and numerous with over 40 rededications and 24 additions, including 19 professions of faith, but the decisions do not tell the whole story of the revival.

The spirit moved in our lives with an undeniable reality that I can only describe as a joyful explosion. I have never seen a congregation so happy in worship. This happiness did not manifest itself in irreverent and distracting behavior, but was expressed in robust singing, uncontrollable smiling, and spontaneous joyful laughter. We had a feeling of excitement and anticipation that made it difficult for us to wait for the appointed hour for another service to begin. Record crowds and record offerings resulted naturally from the joy of the presence of God.

Our prayer is that God will continue to manifest himself here and throughout our state and nation. I believe that revival has begun in Amory. Pray for us that we will be able to spread the fires and not allow them to go out.

Ron Kirkland, pastor
First Church, Amory

Preparing for cadets

Editor:

The Baptist Student Union at the United States Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women coming to the academy June 26 and 27 to begin training as basic cadets. For those arriving June 26, we will meet them at the airport, provide free lodging, meals, and transportation, and take them to the academy at the appointed time. This is an opportunity to meet new Christian friends before beginning basic cadet training. If pastors, parents, friends, or new cadets will contact us with name, address, and telephone number, we will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information.

Please contact us at 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919; telephone (719) 599-9094. Also, for anyone attending West Point or the Naval Academy, similar ministries are provided. At West Point contact: Bill Blackwell, 29 Sheldon Dr., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12518; telephone (914) 534-3944. At the Naval Academy

contact: Tom Clemmons, 210 Hanover St., Annapolis, MD 21401; telephone (301) 263-0963.

Dwain Gregory, director
Baptist Student Ministries
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Don Bozeman lives

Editor:

It was April 20, 1996 — a heavenly host of angels came to receive the spirit of one of God's choice servants — Don Bozeman, pastor of Southside Church in Jackson.

Those who passed by Southside Church that day probably thought we were having a funeral service for Don Bozeman. Yet, within the rims of those present and God's heavenly host, we were having a Celebration, Homecoming Service for our friend and brother in Christ.

You see, as Don's physical body has been put to rest, his Spirit continues to live on and on and on (Eccl. 12:7)! For the spirit of Don Bozeman will never die! He has gone immediately to be with the Lord! One day, bless his holy name, the Lord Jesus is going to come again and receive his children (1 Thes. 4:16-17). And may I say, there was rejoicing in the presence of God's heavenly host not only when Don arrived in heaven, but also at his celebration of departure at Southside Church that day too! For you see, not only had Don desired and requested an evangelistic invitation at his departure, his wife Patsy had asked Gary Bowlin, Don's closest friend in the Lord, to give an invitation at his service.

As the invitation was given, eight to 10 people, and possibly more, indicated they wanted to pray and receive Jesus as their Lord and personal Savior. Three responded by coming to the front and receiving counsel and assurance of their decision.

Don Bozeman had not spoken verbally that day, yet spiritually and eternally he still was bringing men and women to Jesus!

Mike Pennock, pastor
West McComb Church
McComb

It takes a Village

Editor:

Your work in keeping Mississippi Baptists informed is to be commended. **The Baptist Record** is a quality publication.

I would like to add another slant to the "It takes a village [to raise a child]" discussion. The issue seems to be the necessity of individuals, outside the nuclear family, assisting in guiding the development of children to maturity.

Sadly, this is the case all too often in our nation and within our state. Parents are experiencing confusion and difficulty in caring for and guiding their children. In many instances they simply cannot cope. Mississippi Baptists have recognized this problem for years and have been ministering to hurting children and families with the love of the Lord.

You see, too often it does take a village to assist children to physi-

cal, emotional, and spiritual maturity. The Mississippi Baptist Children's Village daily provides for children what their parents cannot or will not provide: unconditional love, protection, food and shelter, the message of the gospel, and a listening ear.

Our wonderful Lord has provided the Village, one amazing ministry necessary to help children and parents. Mississippi Baptists can be proud of this endeavor. This ministry could be increased tremendously if more churches and Christians would be involved in helping our Village help children.

Jim Alford, pastor
Parkway Church
Tupelo

Choice: wine or juice?

Editor:

If Mississippi were not on the threshold of becoming a great wine-producing state, I would not take time to bring into focus something all Christians need to be mindful of. Wine, biblically, can be either fermented or unfermented. The express juice of the grape is also sometimes referred to as wine. Thus, to be accepting of Solomon's wisdom regarding bad wine and the inherent dangers associated with it — versus the condoned use of good wine in other instances — one would have to know the generic word and its use. Without this knowledge, christendom can suffer rebuttals that the Bible is not in harmony and cannot be taken as being without error.

It is my hope, but also my doubt, that Mississippians are aware that the ploy to associate wine (fermented) with aiding heart

disease may be true if the French are to be the proof.

However, according to the University of Texas **Lifetime Health Letter** (August 1995) the following statement is of great interest: "... Interestingly, researchers found that ordinary red grape juice was just as beneficial. Both appear to inhibit the platelet clumping activity in blood and this improve blood flow. Scientists believe that compounds in red wine and red grape juice — tannins and flavonoids — are responsible. White wine has little effect."

Maybe the express juice is the substance entrepreneurs are thinking of, and my fears for the State of Mississippi are totally unfounded. The choice is ours, and we do have a choice — fermented wine or unfermented. A wise one, or one with inherent dangers?

Loretta Jeter
Brandon

Thanks for prayers

Editor:

Thank you for your recent news articles about Liberia and our evacuation from our beloved adopted land. We appreciate the way you keep Mississippi Baptists informed about foreign missions. Keep up the good work!

Through this medium we would like to thank Mississippi Baptists for covering us with prayer April 6-12 as the fighting in Liberia intensified and caused us to evacuate. Your prayer support helped us to make wise decisions, gave us peace in our hearts midst the fighting and turmoil all around us, and allowed us to remain safe until it was possible for the American Embassy to arrange our evacuation

to Senegal. God's presence seemed to embrace us by day and shield and protect us at night. We did not visibly see the angelic hosts that protected us, but we truly believe they were there standing guard over us day and night.

Your prayer support meant more to us than words can express. Thank you for "standing in the gap" on our behalf. We love you and appreciate you standing by our sides, interceding for us and for Liberia. Keep praying for God to bring peace to Liberia as the fighting continues to worsen. Continue to pray for us as we seek God's direction for future mission service and prepare for the task he gives us to do.

We thank God for you and your love and care for us.

Felix and Dene Greer
Rachel Dubard

An accusatory finger

Editor:

In **The Baptist Record** Thursday, April 25, 1996, someone wrote an article accusing a preacher of splitting the past three churches where he was pastor. The individual also made the insinuation that the preacher did not have God's calling or loving Spirit.

This letter seems to be the work of the devil because it is pointing an accusing finger without any validity. The one who wrote this article is trying to be a judge for God in determining whether that minister is called into the ministry or not. It is people who write articles like this who usually cause the minister to have to leave his church in the first place.

Mike Weaver
Belden

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Uniform Challenges to our faith

By David Mitchell
James 1

The letter of James is pastoral in purpose and is a perfect follow-up to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The instructions of James were written to the Jews who were scattered abroad or those in "Diaspora." *Diaspora* was a technical word for the Jews who lived outside the Promised Land. These may have been the people who were forcibly taken from their homes and living as slaves, who were driven out of their homes for political reasons, or who were financially forced to relocate.

It is easy to see that anyone who lived in these circumstances could experience many trials. Trials and tribulations are not to be considered bad luck, but one of the polishing stones through which Christians must pass to maturity.

Joy in trials (vv. 2-4). Inspired by the Holy Spirit, James writes, "Count it all joy my brethren when you meet various trials" (v. 2). These are godly words of godly advice from a godly man to God's people. However, today when various trials come to God's people at times, they stomp, spit, snort, cuss, and throw a fit — a far cry from rejoicing. God's instructions to his disciples are to rejoice when trials come into their lives.

Perseverance in trials (vv. 12-15). In form similar to the Sermon on the Mount, James included a beatitude in verse 12. It resembles Jesus' comment in Matthew 10:22, where he noted that "he who endures to the end will be saved." There is a proper and improper way to meet trials. Those who learn how to face trials well will receive the crown of life. For the Jews dispersed abroad reading these words, four ideas of a crown would immediately come to mind. A crown of flowers was worn in times of joy, such as weddings. The crown of royalty was worn by those in authority. The crown of laurel leaves was the crown worn by the athlete who had been victorious in athletic competition. The crown also brought to mind the idea of honor and dignity. Proverbs 4:9 states, "Wisdom provides a man with a crown of glory." This crown — the crown of life, unlike any known to the Jews — is the crown given to those who will spend eternity with Jesus.

Response and trials (vv. 19-25). Judgment in any given situation needs to be passed only after careful consideration. James was speaking of using grace and mercy in relating to others. Of all people, Christians should be willing to lend a sympathetic ear. It's often been said that we are to listen twice as much as we speak because God created us with two ears and one mouth.

After listening carefully, the Christian is to speak with wisdom out of an overflow from a personal walk with God and knowledge of his Word. We are to put away all "filthiness" (v. 21), which relates to our humanity, and receive the glory of God which comes by the Word implanted into our lives. James encouraged the Christian to strip off all defilement. The idea presented is similar to that of a filthy person stripping off his dirty clothes to put on clean clothes or a snake stripping off its old skin to expose the new.

James called attention to those who may have been living a hypocritical lifestyle (vv. 24-25). He painted a picture of a person who thought that merely hearing the Word of God made him or her a Christian. This is the person who has refused to see that the Christian life must be lived and not only talked about. Hearing the Word demands action. The Word helps a man or woman see himself or herself exactly as he is. Once a person sees what is wrong and understands what must be done to put themselves in a right relationship with God and refuses to do so, the hearing of God's Word in his life has been for nothing. James made it clear that what is heard in church must be lived in the workplace.

The tongue in trial (vv. 26-27). All disciples would do well to heed James' advice and bridle their tongues (v. 26). The disciple must always be on guard to keep his life from being compromised before a world that is ever-watchful. Rather than falling to the temptation of frustration and trials, the disciple is to help those who are hurting, such as orphans and widows, and keep his life "unstained by the world" (v. 27). Again, trials and tribulations are not to be considered bad luck, but one of the polishing stones through which Christians must pass to maturity.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book Promise of victory

By Clayton Littlejohn
Zechariah 12-14

God's promise of victory for Jerusalem assures his people they will experience God's ultimate provision of victory. In these closing chapters of Zechariah, God delivered his chosen people from their enemies, cleansed and refined them into what he has always desired of them, and give them the victory they have desired and he has promised.

God's people delivered (12:1-5). In these verses God identified himself as the speaker, as the creator of the heavens and earth, and the giver of life to mankind "formeth the spirit of man within him." Next, he would make Jerusalem "a cup of trembling unto all the people round about." This pictures a drunk trembling and staggering after the next drink, only to fall before reaching it. Those nations which surrounded Jerusalem and attacked her would fall like staggering drunks. The time of this event is noted "as in that day." This has not happened, so we know it will be a future event. This specific day represents the time God has ordained that Jerusalem will become a "burdensome stone," which means practically helpless.

Have you ever lifted a heavy stone or object? If so, you know you were bent over, straining under the burden, and totally defenseless if trouble approached. "All the people of the earth fighting against Jerusalem" will be under this burden, and the God will "smite every horse... his rider... every horse of the people." This is now God's war and he will defeat all military machines and men of war who challenge Jerusalem. The "governors of Judah... the inhabitants of Jerusalem" will acknowledge that God is their strength and victory.

God's people cleansed and refined (13:1-2). Again God used the term "in that day," referring to some future appointment. From Chapters 12-14, he used the term 16 times so it is a very important event. At this future event, God will cleanse all believing Jews and Gentiles from the "fountain opened." This term speaks of a running or continual source of cleansing. Today we know this fountain is the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood cleanses all our sins and brings our redemption.

In 12:10, they repented over their forefathers' killing Jesus, and accepted him as their salvation. In 13:9, we see how many will repent and accept the cleansing redemption of Jesus: one third of the Jewish population. In this day, God will not only cleanse the people, he will also refine them by removing the false prophets and unclean spirits. These false prophets who get their ways and works from demonic spirits, will forever be cast from Jerusalem's presence.

God's people victorious (14:6-9). Again, we have the term "in that day," which speaks of a time when there will be a special light that covers the earth and will allow no darkness. I believe this light to be Jesus, who is the Light (John 8:12). He is all the light that will be needed in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:5).

Right now it is unclear to us and known only to the Lord, but it will be known by all "in that day." In that day perpetual living waters will go before and behind, meaning all the earth will enjoy the living waters. Finally, to me, the greatest thing about this special future appointment is that there shall be only one King over the earth, whose name is "Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Hallelujah!

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

Life and Work How to live God's will

By Linda Donnell
Romans 12

This is a question asked countless times through the ages: How can I live God's will? It is a question that should be primary in the minds of Christians. However, if we are not careful, we will get mired in studying the fundamentals and doctrines of our religion instead of striving toward living out those doctrinal truths. Too often, we go to church on Sunday, but our theology never makes its way to Monday living.

In the first 11 chapters of Romans, Paul set forth the doctrines of the Christian faith. Then, in a pattern characteristic of all his letters, he ended with practical advice. In today's verses, we find a series of exhortations on how Christian believers should live.

Commit your life (vv. 1-2). Paul urged the Roman Christians to give their bodies as a living sacrifice to God. This implies not only the avoidance of sins that are committed with or against the body, but using the body in complete service to him. This means that our daily activities — our work and leisure, our family and community activities, our intimate as well as social relations — all should be done in the praise of our Father. Oh, how different the world would be if only every Christian would truly "buy into" this piece of advice! And why should we? Paul's exhortation was presented "in view of God's mercy" (v. 1). Considering what God has done for us, why should we not totally commit to him?

A lifestyle totally dedicated to God demands that we not conform to the pattern of the world. Rather, Paul calls us to fix our attention on God and allow the Holy Spirit to change us from the inside out. What God wants of us must continually be ascertained and can only be found as Christ becomes the center of our lives, and as we offer every moment and every action to God (v. 2).

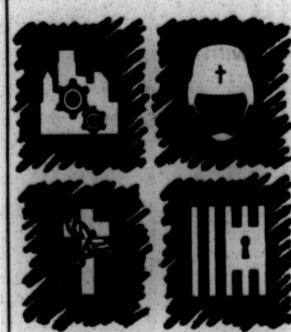
Evaluate yourself (v. 3). As we place ourselves before God and as we seek his will for our lives, it is important for us to undergo some self-examination. In doing so, Paul warns against both an over-estimation and an under-estimation of self. The only accurate way to evaluate ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, rather than by what we are and what we do for him. A proper humility will come as we remember that we belong to God and that whatever we are — whatever talents and gifts we possess — come from him (James 1:17).

Identify your function (vv. 4-5). In seeking God's will, Paul would have us recognize that each believer is a part of the whole body of Christ and that each member has a specific role to play. The problem here may be identifying that gift or function. So often, people may be heard to say, "I haven't yet found my gift," or "I know God gives everyone a gift; I just don't know mine." If we will just take the time for self-examination, we can discover those things we do well. Or we can always ask someone else. It may be easier to see gifts in others than in ourselves. Part of the problem in discovering gifts may be that unless we see a large or important function, we do not recognize it as a gift at all. What we need to do is be what we were made to be, without comparing ourselves with others or trying to be something we are not.

Exercise your gifts (vv. 6-8). The main point in Paul's exhortations in regard to gifts is to use them. Each gift should be exercised in accordance with the intrinsic standards of that gift: serving requires a different talent from teaching, and encouraging requires a different attitude from showing mercy. We should fill the role that God intended for us without trying to do that and something else as well. In the hectic pace of today's culture, our lifestyles might be greatly simplified and our roles might be fulfilled in a better manner if we could only carry out Paul's advice. God did not intend us to be "burned out" Christians.

In what specific ways can you present your body as a living sacrifice in every day life? What are your gifts? How do you use them for Christ?

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.



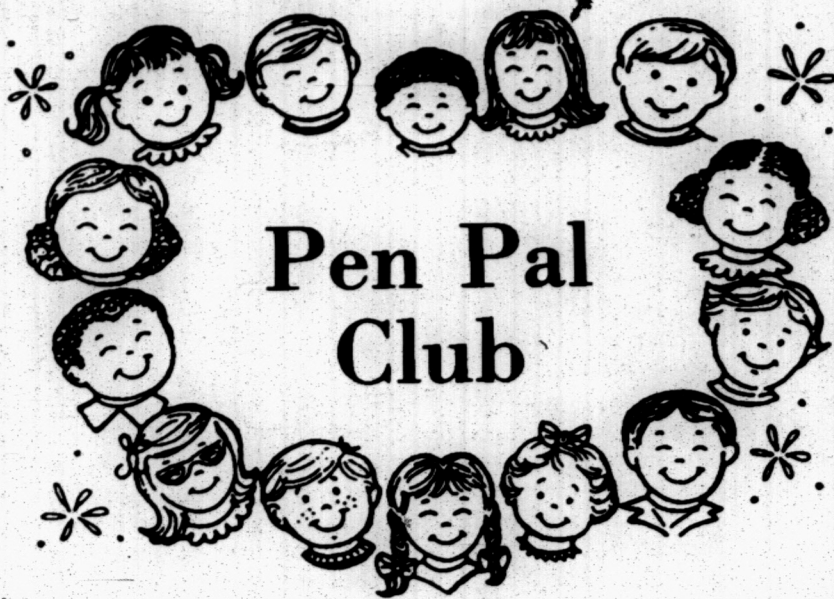
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Hi! My name is Mallory Batte. I'm 9 and in the third grade. My birthday is Oct. 1, 1986. I have one sister. I have a miniature collie. Her name is Lassie. My hobbies are talking on the phone, playing with my dog, reading and playing with my friends. A boy or a girl will do. Please send a picture of yourself if you have one. Write to:

P.O. Box 535
Mt. Olive, MS 39119

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Kala Dixon. I am 11 years old and in the fifth grade. I go to Neshoba Central Elementary School. I have two step-brothers named Matt and Tony, one real brother named Roger, and one real sister named Ticia. My hobbies are reading, books, listening to country music, skating, and fishing. I have one cat and one kitten. I don't care if a boy or a girl writes me. I am a Christian and I got baptized, too. I go to Antioch Church. Please send a picture of you. Write to:

1058 Pierce Road
Collinsville, MS 39325

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hey! My name is Miranda Cooper. I am 12 years old and in the sixth grade. I am a Christian. I like to go swimming, go bowling, talk on the phone, and read. I don't care how old you are nor if you are a girl or boy. Please write to me at:

1011 Rushing Road
Morton, MS 39117

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Kendall Bul-

lock. I am 11 and a half years old and attend Mason Elementary School in Laurel.

My hobbies are playing basketball, soccer, drawing, writing, playing with my dog, hanging out with my friends, and talking on the phone.

If you write me, I will write back and I do not care if you are a boy or a girl. Please write me at:

1113 Parker Drive
Laurel, MS 39440

New FMB monthly video series — "Kids on Mission" — to tap kids' interest in missions

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Millions of American children today pursue the question popularized by a PBS kids' show, "Where in the world is Carmen San Diego?"

The Foreign Mission Board would like Southern Baptist children to start asking different questions: "Where in the world is God at work?" and "How are Southern Baptist missionaries helping?"

To help children ask those questions, the board will introduce in June a new video, titled Kids On Mission. The eight-minute video, produced by the agency's Electronic Media Department, is geared to grade-school children and can be used by Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, and other children's groups in local churches.

The new video is one element in a three-part monthly package, On Mission With God, to begin in June, replacing "Foreign Missions Update," which the board has produced monthly since 1980.

The children's video program is

set in a mapmaker's shop. From there, the old-fashioned cartographer (mapmaker) and his computer-savvy assistant take their viewers (thanks to satellite, interactive, and multimedia technology and a puppet character named Surfer Bob) all around the world to see the needs of people without Christ and to meet missionaries who want to share God's love with them.

The program is designed to be used as a warm-up to an activity on missions, as a stand-alone program or as an element in a Vacation Bible School or similar setting.

A parent said, "My children won't sit down and read through the pages of *The Commission*, but I never have any problems getting them to sit for eight minutes in front of the television. This new video will be a great way to start your television viewing after school."

The new series will be released starting in June 1996. It features Alan Sader of Brunington, Va., as Mr. Christopher and Keia Jones, a high school student from Highland Springs, Va., as Meg, his assistant, along with a cast of thousands from around the world.



NEW VIDEOS — Keia Jones, portraying the computer-savvy Meg, listens to instruction from Alan Sader, who plays the genial map maker Mr. Christopher, in the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's new monthly video series "Kids on Mission." The eight-minute video program will be introduced in June along with a two-minute "Missions Awareness Series" and a longer feature called "On Mission." The "Kids on Mission" series is designed to help grade-school children learn about what God is doing in the world and how he is using Foreign Mission Board missionaries to help. (BP photo by Sandy King)

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Children's Church

Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland, recently held revival services which included Children's Church, where children learned about missionaries who minister to American Indians. Girls (above, left) who participated (from left) are:

Keri Logan, Kayla Ables, Lauren Ng, Beth (last name unavailable), and Kayla Logan. Boys (above, right) who participated are: first row, Jeff Shewmake, Logan White, Cody Logan; second row, T.J. Barnes, Josh White, Alex Marin, Cameron McDaniel, Kris Ables, Jared Bartunek, and Daniel White.

A second element in the new Foreign Mission Board video package is a two-minute segment called "Missions Awareness Series," featuring a quick introduction to what God is doing through Southern Baptists somewhere in the world. The segment is designed for churches to use during their Sunday morning and evening worship services as well as during Wednesday night activities.

The third segment of "On Mission With God," titled "On Mission," includes two features about what God is doing around the world, as well as a short message from FMB President Jerry Rankin.

A subscription to the new video costs \$3.95 a month; single copies are available at \$4.95. To order, call Marilyn Glazebrook at (800) 866-FMB1 (-3621).

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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AGURPIGUP JS EVHZUWBUPP LGJSVA BJAQVBK:
CIA GVKQAUJIPBUPP WUTVOUGUAQ SGJX
WURAQ.

LGJOUGCP AUB: AEJ

This week's clue: A equals T.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah One: Twenty-One.

Baptist Record

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